THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH
RIVERSIDE DRIVE at 122ND STREET
NEW YORK 27, N.Y.

July 25, 1949

W. RICHARD WEAGLY
Choir Director

Dear Gene:

The enclosed letter I wrote and meant to send last week. The day after writing it, I felt the need of speaking with Dr. McCracken personally, and at that time I showed him the letter, suggesting that I not send it after all. When he had read it, he urged me to follow up my original idea, because he felt I should let you know "for the record" what I discussed with him. I have hesitated, as to whether I should re-write it or send this rough and incorrect form, and have now decided to get it off to you as it was.

Needless to say, I was grateful for the time I had with Dr. McCracken and he was able to set me straight on the decisions going forward. He had not been too well informed on the matter either, and Mr. Heidt's diagram and explanation had arrived on his desk just before I arrived in his office. He had been disturbed by the arrangements and could not understand why Virgil did not take him into his confidence, especially when Virgil had made a point of speaking to him about his sermon on the Sunday morning of July 17, and the committee had planned the console change on the Friday before.

As the matter now rests, Virgil has neither told me about the proposed move, nor has he told me that the move was refused, so you can see that I am still supposed to know nothing about any of it. Dr. McCracken urged me to be as helpful to Virgil as I possibly could last Wednesday evening, as it was then that Mr. Heidt was to tell Virgil that the con-

sole would not be moved, and, he was afraid that Virgil would be considerably upset and would "cut up", as he put it. But, since that time, I have had no comment from Virgil nor does he seem to be disappointed in the decision, so I will continue to stay out of the picture.

I hope that I have opportunity to talk with you about this, because I am uncertain as to where the matter now leads. I do not want to give the impression that I am trying to stall Virgil's plans, and I most assuredly do not want to create a situation where you or Dr. McCracken has to be an intermediary. Dr. McCracken was deadly serious about the situation, and went so far as to say he hoped that Virgil and I could continue as a team. If there are places where I am failing to meet the problem, I depend on you to steer me right. It would be a terrible blow to me to have Virgil resign, or be asked to resign, and yet I trust that my own work is proving satisfactory enough that my own continuance at Riverside is assured.

I felt that this past Sunday morning was fine from Virgil's angle, and I don't believe there was any one place where he played too loud, either for the choir or congregation. He has done a wonderful job on the recitals, and is planning already for next summer. I think that you and Dr. McCracken, with firmness, can lead him to see how he must change if he is to remain, and he cares so much for both of you that I am confident he will more and more, if little by little, bring himself under control. In reading the Goethe article in Life this week, the famous phrase "To live as one likes is plebeian; the noble man aspires to order and law." made me wonder how Virgil could be made to see that the controls(?) we are trying to bring to bear on his music in the church is surely inspired by a similar philosophy. He would never take it from me, but I believe that he will from you.

I should have chosen a larger sheet. You see, I do need to <u>talk</u> this over with you.

Sincerely,

Dick

Weagly
After 3 days, return to
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490 Riverside Drive,
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